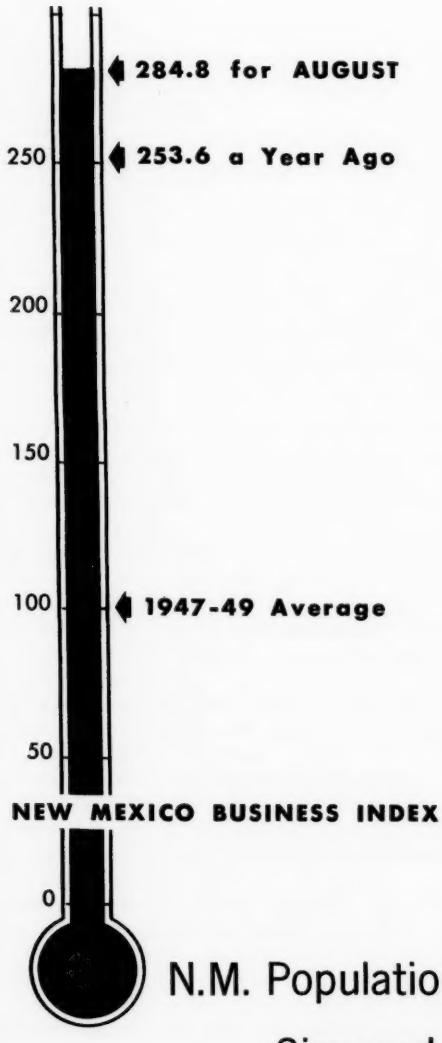
OCTOBER 1958

New Mexico BUSINESS



Business activity went on climbing steadily in New Mexico during August. The Bureau's composite Index of Business Activity reached a level that was 185 per cent above the 1947-49 base period, continuing a position maintained rather consistently throughout 1958, a position more than 10 per cent above the 1947-49 trend line.

Metallics and potash have performed sluggishly during the year, confining over-all business gains to modest ones and seriously affecting centers of the two industries. But business throughout the State generally has continued its steady postwar growth, apparently affected by the Recession only slightly or not at all.

Although increased unemployment slowed the economy, employment has also increased steadily and substantially. The larger total income resulting from growing employment is apparently being freely spent, bolstering the sales of services, amusement establishments, and the retail trade. The first two showed further good gains in August; the last grew substantially, as they have all year except in April and June.

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N.M. Population: Size and Distribution

New Mexico Population:
Its Size and Its Changing Distribution

By Ralph L. Edgel

"How many people live where?"

This question is the one most frequently asked of the Bureau of Business Research. People with all kinds of interests want the information in order to plan activities like locating businesses, selling goods and services, administering public programs, and providing various kinds of facilities. Indeed, the thing which seems to interest most people most is PEOPLE.

A DIFFICULT QUESTION

Despite the widespread desire for this information, it is most difficult to obtain, because the number of people in this nation is so large and so rapidly changed by births, deaths, and migration that to count them is time-consuming and expensive. The only regularly recurring general count of the population is the actual nose-count which is made every 10 years by the U. S. Bureau of the Census. But even these official checks are neither adequate for the entire decade nor completely accurate even for the census year. They occur so infrequently that substantial changes in number, distribution, and characteristics of population--changes that can be particularly significant in areas of small population--inevitably occur during the intervening years. Also, lesser changes occur almost as inevitably between the beginning and the completion of each respective census.

Those persons whose activities must be guided by the number and characteristics of the people in their area of activity at any given time need such information much more frequently than every 10 years. This need, coupled with the difficulties and the expense of meeting it through actual enumerations, gives rise to many attempts to estimate the population of given areas at frequent intervals--attempts generally less expensive than physical counts, but probably just as difficult.

THE NATURE OF ESTIMATES

Basically, population estimates employ counts of certain segments of the total population. Many such segments are counted with some frequency in connection with administering certain business activities or public programs. Such segments may be those persons in school or of school age, those with water or other service meters, those who die or who give birth to children, those who are employed in jobs subject to unemployment insurance, and so forth. These segments constitute what might be called "samples" of the total population, and estimating the total population by making counts of such segments can be likened to sampling.

However, the accuracy of estimates so obtained depends largely upon how well the segments sampled represent the total population. More specifically, the accuracy of estimates of the total population derived from counting various segments of that total depends upon continuity of certain relationships--particularly, numerical relationships--between the size or characteristics of the segments counted and the size or characteristics of the total population. If these relationships could remain substantially the same during the intervals between actual enumerations, the estimates of total population would be fairly accurate. But we know that the relationships do not stay the same with respect to the segments for which we do have counts, particularly within the boundaries of small areas like counties or cities. Moreover, we do not know the extent of the relationship changes which occur nor which segments, if any, maintain the most stable relationships to the total population.

BASIC PROBLEMS

The two principal problems in making estimates of the population of an area, therefore, are the selection of the segments to be used as samples

and the appraisal of the relative stability of the relationships maintained between the samples and the total population from one estimating period to another. Very little information is on hand to guide the estimator. The particular manner in which each problem is handled is largely a matter of his judgment. His selection of sample segments is, of course, limited to those for which enumerations are already available; but his final selection must be determined by his judgment as to which of those samples is likely to possess the most stable relationship to the total population. Perhaps he will use more than one sample segment (if more than one offers), on the theory that the relative instability of one may offset the relative instability of the other or others. In this event, he must then decide--on his own--how to combine the several estimates thus obtained.

SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS

Two segments of the population which may have the greatest impact on the number of people in a given area are those who are born and those who die. In most of the United States today fairly accurate counts of these two segments are kept. One might suppose that once the population of an area had been counted, its changing size could be easily kept up to date simply by adding or deducting subsequent births and deaths. Indeed, were it not for migration, this procedure would yield fairly accurate results. But the numbers of people moving about from one place to another are not counted, and in some areas this number may be as large or larger than the number who are born or who die there. Therefore, in looking for counted segments of the population to use as the basis for estimating total population, we are particularly interested in those which reflect the effects of migration.

THE BUREAU'S METHOD

The counted segments used in making the annual population estimates released by the Bureau of Business Research are (1) the number of persons born (tantamount to the number bearing children), (2) the number dying, and (3) the number of school-age children as reported by the State Department of Education. The relationships between each of these segments and the total population during any one year are assumed to be the same as those which existed at the time of the last decennial census. The stability (or validity) of these relationships with respect to any particular estimating period is appraised in the light of as much supplementary information about any particular area as the Bureau is able to obtain, including employment, school enrollments, retail sales, and intuitive interpretation of such non-quantitative information as is known to the Bureau staff.

The specific procedure with respect to each county of the State is this:

1. A "benchmark" figure is established for each county by adjusting the 1950 enumerated population in accordance with the number of enumerated births and deaths since. This figure represents the size of the population if there had been no migration since the census.
2. The figure for each enumerated segment is multiplied by the ratio representing the relationship existing in 1950 between that segment and the total population. This process produces three separate estimates of the population for each county: one based on the number of births, one on the number of deaths, and one on the number of school-age children.
3. The three estimates arrived at in Step 2 are averaged to produce an average estimate.
4. All estimates thus arrived at are then compared with each other and with the benchmark established in Step 1.

TABLE I

POPULATION OF NEW MEXICO COUNTIES
1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1958

	1920* Jan.	1930* April	1940* April	1950* April	1958** Mid-Year
Bernalillo	29,855	45,430	69,391	145,673	238,500
Catron	--	3,282	4,881	3,533	2,900
Chaves	12,075	19,549	23,980	40,605	58,100
Colfax	21,550	19,157	18,718	16,761	14,700
Curry	11,236	15,809	18,159	23,351	27,400
De Baca	3,196	2,893	3,725	3,464	3,000
Dona Ana	16,548	27,455	30,411	39,557	54,000
Eddy	9,116	15,842	24,311	40,640	50,800
Grant	21,939	19,050	20,050	21,649	20,100
Guadalupe	8,015	7,027	8,646	6,772	6,000
Harding	--	4,421	4,374	3,013	2,200
Hidalgo	4,338	5,023	4,821	5,095	6,000
Lea	3,545	6,144	21,154	30,717	56,200
Lincoln	7,823	7,198	8,557	7,409	8,300
Los Alamos	--	--	--	10,476	13,200
Luna	12,270	6,247	6,457	8,753	12,000
McKinley	13,731	20,643	23,641	27,451	41,400
Mora	13,915	10,322	10,981	8,720	6,500
Otero	7,902	9,779	10,522	14,909	41,900
Quay	10,444	10,828	12,111	13,971	12,700
Rio Arriba	19,552	21,381	25,352	24,997	26,400
Roosevelt	6,548	11,109	14,549	16,409	17,500
Sandoval	8,863	11,144	13,898	12,438	11,800
San Juan	8,333	14,701	17,115	18,292	54,500
San Miguel	22,867	23,636	27,910	26,512	23,900
Santa Fe	15,030	19,567	30,826	38,153	41,200
Sierra	4,619	5,184	6,962	7,186	6,200
Socorro	14,061	9,611	11,422	9,670	10,500
Taos	12,773	14,394	18,528	17,146	15,100
Torrance	9,731	9,269	11,026	8,012	6,000
Union	16,680	11,036	9,095	7,372	6,200
Valencia	13,795	16,186	20,245	22,481	34,700
State Total	360,350	423,317	531,818	681,187	929,900

*U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Estimated by Bureau of Business Research, University of New Mexico

5. A final estimate is prepared, using the composite of averages, modified--if it appears necessary--by such additional knowledge as the Bureau is able to obtain about what has been happening to the population in each county.

6. In preparing subsequent estimates of the population, we review earlier ones for reasonableness in the light of the estimates currently being made and of all additional information available to us.

The Bureau recognizes--and is the first to point out--that the above method of estimating population is open to criticism. No method based on approximate counts of special segments can be entirely accurate. Each special segment has characteristics which may be particular to it and not at all typical of the entire population, and these characteristics will almost certainly be reflected in the estimates derived from that specific segment. Moreover, the relationship of the various segments to the total population may, and probably will, change from time to time, particularly in small populations and particularly if the population is subjected to forces making for quick change, such as rapid migration or changing job opportunities.

Yet the hard facts of circumstance require that, if population estimates are to be made at all, the estimating agency must use data readily available and methods practicable within the enforced limits of time and money. Given these necessities, the agency must recognize the limitations of its methods and then make such modifications in the resulting estimates as seem logical. It must also emphasize the nature of the estimates as estimates only--and call attention to their definite limitations.

LIMITATIONS OF THE ESTIMATES

The Bureau recognizes that the data for the segments from which its estimates are made represent only approximate counts. There is neither complete enumeration of either births or deaths nor a constant degree of incompleteness. The census of school-age children taken each spring by the public schools does not represent, the Bureau feels sure, an actual count and so is not entirely accurate. We know, too, that the ratios of births and deaths to the total population do not remain constant from year to year in areas of small population. We also have reason to believe that the ratio of school-age children to total population changes over the years, particularly in areas subject to considerable migration.

Why, then, doesn't the Bureau use other data for making its estimates? The answer is that within our limited experience and in our judgment these data give more nearly accurate indications of the size and changes in the population of whole counties than do any other which are readily available for all counties in time to make estimates for a current year. And practical considerations require that the Bureau use data which can be had without large expenditures of time or money, that they be available for all counties on an approximately uniform basis, and that they be available within the current year. The data we use are the only direct measures of the population, or segments of it, which satisfy these criteria.

PURPOSE OF ESTIMATES

Enough has been said about the shortcomings of the basic data used by the Bureau to indicate that we can make no claim to a high degree of accuracy for our estimates. But it should also be pointed out that, while we cannot anticipate great accuracy, our purpose in making the estimates does not require great accuracy, though we would like to achieve it. Generally speaking, our objective in making population estimates for New Mexico's counties is to provide indications of the direction and approximate magnitude of changes in the total population of the counties so that those persons whose operations must be geared to the changing size of populations may plan accordingly.

Our estimates are primarily useful in giving indications of the extent of population changes subsequent to the decennial census which precedes the estimates. The facts of population size and characteristics provided by that census and the succeeding changes occurring in the sample segments form the bases for our estimates and their indications.

REVISED ESTIMATES

Each year as the Bureau gets ready to prepare its annual estimates, it follows Step 6 described above and reviews the estimates prepared for previous years, re-evaluating them for reasonableness in the light of such additional information as has become available in the interim. This year (1958) we have undertaken a major review and revision of estimates back to 1950, refining certain techniques and attempting to introduce more precision into the entire procedure. (It should be noted that additional precision in procedure does not necessarily guarantee greater accuracy of the estimates, although that is the obvious objective.)

As a result of this extensive revision a number of figures published earlier have been changed. In most instances the changes are minor; and, admittedly, their magnitude may be no greater than the magnitude of the inaccuracies inherent

in the method of estimating. The changes are made primarily because the revised estimates appear to be more consistent with all the information presently available. The fact that the new figures are, in our judgment, more realistic is not, however, any guarantee that they are more accurate.

The revised estimates for all years from 1950 are on Pages 10-13, together with data for births and deaths and figures indicating the net migration to be inferred from the difference between the estimated population and that which would have resulted merely by adding the annual natural increase (excess of births over deaths). The year-to-year changes shown in Table I are, of course, interesting; but the changes over longer periods are more useful in indicating trends in population growth or decline in New Mexico counties. These changes are shown in Tables I and II.

TABLE II

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN POPULATION
NEW MEXICO COUNTIES
SHOWN BY SELECTED PERIODS

	1920 to 1958	1920 to 1930	1930 to 1940	1940 to 1950	1950 to 1958	Rank*
Lea	+1,405	+ 73	+244	+ 45	+ 83	3
Bernalillo	+ 700	+ 52	+ 53	+110	+ 64	4
San Juan	+ 555	+ 76	+ 16	+ 7	+198	1
Eddy	+ 457	+ 74	+ 54	+ 67	+ 25	11
Otero	+ 430	+ 24	+ 8	+ 42	+181	2
Chaves	+ 381	+ 62	+ 23	+ 69	+ 43	7
Dona Ana	+ 226	+ 66	+ 11	+ 30	+ 36	9
McKinley	+ 202	+ 50	+ 14	+ 16	+ 51	6
Santa Fe	+ 174	+ 30	+ 58	+ 24	+ 8	16
Roosevelt	+ 167	+ 70	+ 31	+ 13	+ 7	17
STATE	+ 158	+ 18	+ 26	+ 28	+ 36	
Valencia	+ 152	+ 17	+ 25	+ 11	+ 54	5
Curry	+ 144	+ 41	+ 15	+ 29	+ 17	13
Hidalgo	+ 38	+ 16	- 4	+ 6	+ 18	12
Rio Arriba	+ 35	+ 9	+ 19	- 1	+ 6	18
Sierra	+ 34	+ 12	+ 34	+ 3	- 14	27
Sandoval	+ 33	+ 26	+ 25	- 10	- 5	19
Quay	+ 22	+ 4	+ 12	+ 15	- 9	21
Taos	+ 18	+ 13	+ 29	- 8	- 12	24
Lincoln	+ 6	- 8	+ 19	- 13	+ 12	14
San Miguel	+ 4	+ 3	+ 18	- 5	- 10	22
Socorro	0	- 8	+ 19	- 15	+ 9	15
Luna	- 2	- 49	+ 3	+ 36	+ 37	8
De Baca	- 6	- 10	+ 29	- 7	- 13	26
Grant	- 8	- 13	+ 5	+ 8	- 7	20
Catron	- 19	--	+ 49	- 28	- 18	29
Guadalupe	- 25	- 12	+ 23	- 22	- 11	23
Colfax	- 32	- 11	- 2	- 10	- 12	25
Torrance	- 38	- 5	+ 19	- 27	- 25	30
Mora	- 47	- 16	+ 6	- 21	- 26	31
Union	- 53	- 16	- 18	- 19	- 16	28
Harding	- 58	--	- 1	- 31	- 27	32
Los Alamos**	--	--	--	--	+ 26	10

*Rank in rate of change from 1950-58
**Los Alamos county organized in 1949
Source: Calculations based on U.S. Bureau of Census reports and (for 1958) Bureau of Business Research.

INTERPRETING THE ESTIMATES

Looking at the picture of the over-all growth in the State's population, we note that such growth has been occurring at an increasing tempo during the four periods summarized in the tables. The rate of gain in the 1950-58 period is slightly more than double that of the 1920-30 period. In view of the facts that proportionately more of the population is now gainfully employed and that per capita income is greater relative to the national average than in the earlier period, this rapid increase in population attests to the vigor of the State's economy.

Reasons for Growth

During the entire period from 1920 to the present, New Mexico's rate of population growth has greatly exceeded that of the nation. Migration has been an important cause of growth--and of decline, too, particularly with respect to some counties. In San Juan and Otero counties, the two which have grown most rapidly since 1950, migration has accounted for more than 80 per cent of the growth. And in all the counties which have lost population, migration has been responsible. Thus, in looking for causes of growth or decline, we are essentially searching for causes of migration. It seems significant, however, that a goodly part of New Mexico's rapid gain can be ascribed to the much higher rate of natural increase in this state than throughout the nation. The following figures for the 1950-58 period are illuminating:

Mid-1950 population		684,380	
Births	203,420		
Deaths	44,507		
Natural increase	158,913		23.2%
Net immigration	86,607		12.7%
Total increase		245,520	35.9%
Mid-1958 population		929,900	

During this same period the population of the United States increased, primarily by natural means, 14.6 per cent. By substituting for our 23.2 per cent increase by natural means the 14.6 per cent realized by the nation, we can better observe the substantial effect upon our population growth of our higher rate of natural increase:

Total gain, mid-1950-58	245,600
Gain at the national rate of 14.6%	99,900
Gain in excess of the national rate	145,700
Gain by immigration	86,600
Gain due to higher rate of natural increase	59,100

Thus, it is apparent that more than 40 per cent of our gain in excess of the nation's rate can be ascribed to our higher rate of natural increase.

TABLE III

NEW MEXICO'S AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES*
CHANGES IN POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

	Per Cent Change in Population 1920-1958	Agricultural Employment as Per Cent of Total Employment		Change in Agricultural Employment 1940-1950		Change in Nonagricultural Employment 1940-1950		1950-1958
		1940	1950	No.	%	No.	%	%
Harding	- 58	51	55	+ 14	+ 3%	- 64	- 14%	- 40%
Union	- 53	49	42	-147	- 13%	+ 194	+ 16%	- 4%
Mora	- 47	66	51	-334	- 26%	+ 248	+ 37%	- 48%
Torrance	- 38	62	46	-731	- 43%	+ 87	+ 8%	+ 60%
Guadalupe	- 25	44	31	-209	- 27%	+ 249	+ 25%	+ 84%
Catron	- 19	51	45	-220	- 29%	- 60	- 8%	+ 30%
De Baca	- 6	48	33	-119	- 23%	+ 241	+ 44%	+ 47%
Socorro	0	48	30	-349	- 32%	+ 588	+ 49%	+214%
San Miguel	+ 4	33	24	-351	- 22%	+ 876	+ 27%	- 3%
Lincoln	+ 6	43	29	-303	- 31%	+ 333	+ 26%	+ 84%
Taos	+ 18	49	39	+ 90	+ 6%	+ 861	+ 58%	+ 23%
Quay	+ 22	35	28	+ 91	+ 8%	+1,040	+ 46%	+ 11%
Sandoval	+ 33	58	38	-785	- 39%	+ 506	+ 35%	+ 18%
Sierra	+ 34	32	22	-130	- 21%	+ 411	+ 31%	+ 4%
Rio Arriba	+ 35	59	38	-583	- 24%	+2,154	+126%	+ 52%
Valencia	+152	50	34	-361	- 16%	+1,418	+ 64%	+467%
Roosevelt	+167	56	38	- 98	- 4%	+1,857	+102%	- 14%
McKinley	+202	30	27	-321	- 13%	+ 195	+ 3%	+140%
Dona Ana	+226	49	32	-270	- 7%	+3,523	+ 85%	+ 88%
Chaves	+381	33	19	- 28	- 1%	+4,791	+ 99%	+ 65%
San Juan	+554	56	37	-975	- 33%	+1,025	+ 45%	+985%

*All counties with 30 per cent or more of total employment in agriculture in 1940
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, N.M. Employment Security Commission, Bureau of Business Research, University of New Mexico

Uneven Distribution of Growth

But while the State as a whole has shown a very rapid rate of growth, the gains in population have been confined to fewer than half our counties. During the period of most spectacular growth (i.e., since 1950) the population of 14 counties has actually decreased. In nine others the increase has been less than the excess of births over deaths; that is, there has been a net migration of people out of these counties. Only nine of the State's 32 counties have not lost population. When the counties experiencing large increases are ranked in order of percentage increase, San Juan comes first, followed by Otero, Lea, Bernalillo, Valencia, McKinley, Chaves, Luna, and Dona Ana.

Looking back over the entire period since 1920, we find that four other counties have shown substantial growth--Eddy, Santa Fe, Roosevelt, and Curry. But if we take this longer view, Luna, with a smaller present population than in 1920, must be removed from the list of New Mexico's "growth" counties. Only 12 counties, therefore, have shown consistently substantial growth. None of the others has been able to approach the 64 per cent increase experienced by the nation during the same period.

Influences Accounting for Migration

A review of changes in the population of New Mexico's counties shows that, aside from the fact that the State as a whole has been growing rapidly, there have been three broad and pervasive influences producing migration of the population. Two are closely interrelated--the long-term decline in farming as a way of life and the rapid increase in the urban population, partly a result of the movement from farms to cities. A third influence--or combination of influences--is the development of certain local resources which

has brought about spectacular increases in some of our "growth" counties. A fourth influence of less general applicability, but one exerting a sharp impact upon a few counties, has been the deterioration of certain segments of the mining industry.

Decline of Agriculture

The steady decline in the number of people living on farms is a nationwide phenomenon of many years' duration. It reflects a number of developments such as increasing efficiency in agriculture with a consequent reduction in the number of people required to produce a given quantity of agricultural products, the commercialization of farm operations, the consolidation of farms and ranches into larger units, the desire to live in urban or suburban surroundings, and, more recently, falling prices, rising costs, and, in New Mexico, prolonged drouth.

Most of the counties in New Mexico which are primarily oriented toward farming and ranching have felt the impact of these developments in a steady emigration of people to other areas. In some counties a decline in population has resulted; in others there has been an increase, but one smaller than the excess of births over deaths, a fact also indicating emigration. The only agricultural counties which have not lost population are those in which the rapid development of nonagricultural resources has served to stay the out-migration by providing increasing job opportunities in nonagricultural pursuits.

In Table III New Mexico's agricultural counties, those which in 1940 had 30 per cent or more of their employment in agriculture, are ranked downward from those with the largest population losses since 1920 to those with the greatest gains. Also shown for each county are the percentages of its total employment engaged in agriculture in 1940 and 1950, the change in its agricultural employment between 1940 and 1950, and the change in its covered employment (which is nonagricultural) within the 1940-50 and 1950-58 periods.

It can be seen that seven of these agricultural counties had smaller populations in 1958 than in 1920 and that an additional eight had gains smaller than their natural increase would have provided. Thus, all 15 actually lost population during the period. Only six of the 21 agricultural counties had increases large enough to account for more than the natural increase (assumed to be not less than the 64 per cent population gain of the nation as a whole).

It can also be seen that agricultural employment declined sharply between 1940 and 1950 in all but three of these counties. And the only ones--the six at the bottom of the table--that have not lost population are those in which nonagricultural employment has shown very substantial increases between 1940 and 1950 or between 1950 and 1958 or in both periods.

Other Causes of Decline

The evidence summarized in Table III gives rise to the rather strong presumption that the decline in agriculture has been responsible for loss of population in many New Mexico counties. But there are four not traditionally agricultural which have also lost population since 1920--Luna, Colfax, Grant, and Hidalgo. In these counties a combination of factors has accounted for a decreasing population, but the decline in agriculture must certainly shoulder part of the responsibility. In each one, ranching--although not predominant--has been important; and its decline has adversely affected the population. In Colfax, Luna, and Hidalgo counties, railroad employment--long significant--has been curtailed with the dieselization of the railroads. In all four, mining has been a basic industry; and in all four mining employment has been decreasing, primarily because of adverse market influences.

URBANIZATION

Growth of population has usually been accompanied by increasing urbanization, at least in the Americas. In some instances, urban areas witness increasing population--for a time, at any rate--even as surrounding rural areas experience decline. Small towns become large cities, while large cities typically become larger cities, expanding their areas and increasing their density of population in the process.

The fact that population growth tends to take place more in cities than in rural areas may be explained by a number of developments. For one thing, increasing urbanization reflects what is happening to the rural areas, many of which--as has been said--are declining. In part, this tendency may be attributed to the growing productivity of our economy, which requires a smaller and smaller proportion of our population in the agricultural and extractive industries and makes possible the use of a larger and larger proportion in the production of nonmaterial goods--services which are constantly increasing, both in variety and in numbers.

The fact that many types of facilities and services can be provided only (or, perhaps, more economically) to concentrations of the population contributes to the growth of cities, because such facilities offer strong inducements to move to or remain in the city. And modern transportation and communications facilities not only encourage such concentrations; they actually make them possible. It is true that, more recently, rapid transportation methods have encouraged movement away from the cities to the suburbs; but this movement has served primarily to increase the physical size of the urban areas rather than to reduce or curtail urbanization as such.

Undoubtedly, the forces producing the strong trend toward urbanization are numerous and complex. We probably do not understand in detail the reasons for this seeming compulsion. The results, however, are clear; and those in New Mexico are set forth in Table IV.

These figures show plainly that the growth of New Mexico since 1920 has been accomplished largely through the growth of its urban areas. In the 20 years prior to 1940, two thirds of the entire growth of the State occurred in such areas. Since then, the rate of urban growth has exceeded that of total growth, thus more than offsetting the rural decline. The counties which have shown the greatest rates of population expansion are precisely those that now have the largest urban populations.

It should be explained that the Bureau's figure for the 1958 urban population is an estimate based upon examination of the data for individual counties. It is probably a somewhat different figure from that which the Bureau of the Census would develop through actual enumeration. The UNM Bureau cannot define the boundaries of the urban areas in the same precise way the Census does; and so, since the estimates are based upon generalized observations of urban development in many localities, they are at best only rough approximations.

TABLE IV

URBANIZATION OF NEW MEXICO'S POPULATION
1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1958

	1920	1930	1940	1950	1958
Total Population	360,350	423,317	531,818	681,187	929,900
Increase:					
Number		62,967	108,501	149,369	248,700
Per Cent		18%	26%	28%	37%
Urban Places	12	16	22	29	?
Urban Population	64,960	106,816	176,401	341,889	622,800
Per Cent of Total	18%	25%	33%	50%	67%
Increase:					
Number		41,856	69,585	165,488	280,900
Per Cent		64%	65%	94%	82%
Rural Population	295,390	316,501	355,417	339,298	307,100
Increase:					
Number		21,111	38,916	-16,119	-32,200
Per Cent		7%	12%	-5%	-10%

Source: U. S. Bureau of Census, decennial census reports for New Mexico, except 1958 figures estimated by Bureau of Business Research, University of New Mexico.

ANALYSIS OF GROWTH

While urbanization has been one of the most pervasive influences accompanying population growth, it is not in itself a cause of that growth. Increasing concentrations of people have reflected the interplay of more basic influences--particularly, those associated with the development of resources of the growing areas.

Twelve of New Mexico's counties have witnessed extraordinary growth since 1920, and in nearly every instance this unusual growth can be traced to the development of a single resource or a specialized activity. Although such a statement greatly oversimplifies the explanation of their growth, nevertheless, a good case can be made to show that the principal stimulus to growth in any of these counties has been a single development.

Leading Counties

LEA and SAN JUAN counties furnish excellent examples of such expansion. Lea led the State in rate of gain for the 1920-1958 period; San Juan has been the pacemaker during the last eight years. (See Table II.) In each case, the most important single influence has been the development of the oil and gas industry. Both counties have felt the effects of other forces--for instance, well irrigation of farm lands in Lea and the expansion of uranium processing in San Juan; but oil and gas have been the giants in the field.

In McKINLEY and VALENCIA counties the big population surge has occurred since 1950. In each case, most of the growth has been largely sparked by the discovery of uranium deposits and the subsequent mining and milling of uranium ores.

Except during the period from 1930 to 1940, OTERO county's rate of growth has exceeded that of the State as a whole. The most impressive gains in Otero have also come since 1950 and have been associated primarily with one activity--the government's special-weapons program set up at the White Sands Proving Ground and Holloman Field.

Much of the influence of special-weapons development has rubbed off on neighboring DONA ANA county, but substantial growth there before 1950 must be attributed to other forces. Three have been particularly prominent: the stability and relative prosperity of the county's irrigated agriculture, the expansion of New Mexico A & M College, and the growth of Las Cruces as a commercial center for southwestern New Mexico.

EDDY and CHAVES counties have also known somewhat more diverse influences, with growth in each occurring fairly evenly and consistently throughout the entire period since 1920. The development of oil and gas resources has been important in both, as has relative agricultural prosperity. But, again, the lion's share of the gains has been contributed in each case by activities associated with a single resource or a specific pursuit--potash in Eddy, and in Chaves the expansion in recent years of Walker Air Force Base, where employment has accounted for around half of the county's total employment increase since 1940.

Although CURRY, ROOSEVELT, and SANTA FE counties rank among the 12 leaders in population gains since 1920, their rates of gain have been declining sharply in recent years. Since 1950, migration has caused a net loss of population in each of the three. In view of this trend, they should probably be excluded from the list of the State's growth counties.

CONCLUSIONS

It becomes apparent, therefore, that New Mexico's recent growth has been largely centered in nine counties, and that these nine owe their gains chiefly to two kinds of developments: the exploitation of natural resources--petroleum, potash, and uranium--and the expansion of government expenditures for defense, particularly special-weapons development and Air Force activities.

Some people may question the soundness of growth based upon such a pattern. But the fact remains that in its broad outlines the pattern pretty well duplicates that of the westward expansion of the United States--expansion based upon exploitation of natural resources and, directly or indirectly, upon subsidies by the federal government. History confirms this important role of government subsidy in regional growth.

The case of BERNALILLO county is possibly the most complex in the State. True, one particular activity has supplied the most persuasive prod to the economy since 1940--the expansion of federal spending; but this expansion has taken various forms. Enlargement of the Air Force installations and the establishment and subsequent development of Sandia laboratories have been the most important and have spurred the setting up and the growth of many private activities. However, Bernalillo, like Chaves and Eddy, has grown rapidly throughout the entire 1920-58 period, and not wholly because of government spending. Probably, as the commercial center of the State, Bernalillo county more than any other has felt most strongly New Mexico's general growth ever since statehood was granted.

(Population estimates for New Mexico counties may be found on the next four pages.)

A recent release of the U.S. Bureau of the Census pegs New Mexico's mid-1957 population at 813,000 persons, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the State. In arriving at this figure, the Census has estimated a net migration out of the State of 19,000 persons. All these figures differ considerably from the estimates of the Bureau of Business Research, as can be seen from the accompanying comparison. (It should be pointed out that the Bureau of Business Research uses figures rounded to the nearest 100; the Bureau of the Census uses figures rounded to the nearest 1,000.)

The most disconcerting aspect of this disagreement is that the consumer of such statistics does not know whom to believe. Although the Bureau of Business Research makes its estimates by considering each county separately, whereas the Bureau of the Census prepares its estimates on a statewide basis, both agencies have available essentially the same basic data to work with. The differences in estimates, therefore, represent largely differences of judgment in interpreting the available information, so that one's choice between the two sets of figures is largely a matter of choosing to trust the judgment of one agency in preference to the judgment of the other.

	BBR	Census
Population: April 1950	681,200	681,000
July 1957	888,600	813,000
Net Change, 1950-57	207,400	132,000
Accounted for by--		
Births	180,800	191,000
less Deaths	39,500	40,000
equals Natural Increase	141,300	151,000
and Net Migration	+66,100	-19,000

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF NEW MEXICO COUNTIES
SHOWING NATURAL INCREASE AND INFERRED MIGRATION
1950-1958

	Bernalillo	Catron	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	De Baca	Dona Ana	Eddy
1950 Census (April)	145,673	3,533	40,605	16,761	23,351	3,464	39,557	40,640
Mid-1950	147,700	3,500	40,800	16,700	23,300	3,460	39,350	41,100
Births	5,227	80	1,462	403	693	89	1,438	1,509
Deaths	1,084	22	236	131	178	28	291	294
Net Migration	5,157	-458	1,874	-1,072	-415	-321	-2,397	1,885
Mid-1951	157,000	3,100	43,900	15,900	23,400	3,200	38,100	44,200
Births	5,809	67	1,489	447	704	94	1,465	1,562
Deaths	1,122	22	261	146	152	35	315	303
Net Migration	1,413	-145	372	-401	-1,052	-159	1,450	1,541
Mid-1952	163,100	3,000	45,500	15,800	22,900	3,100	40,700	47,000
Births	6,563	94	1,409	445	841	81	1,429	1,598
Deaths	1,172	19	289	165	165	24	283	268
Net Migration	9,109	-75	1,680	-1,080	24	-457	254	-1,330
Mid-1953	177,600	3,000	48,300	15,000	23,600	2,700	42,100	47,000
Births	6,788	51	1,722	406	835	85	1,420	1,611
Deaths	1,173	27	311	138	136	25	258	276
Net Migration	1,785	-324	3,489	-1,068	-899	40	-162	-2,035
Mid-1954	185,000	2,700	53,200	14,200	23,400	2,800	43,100	46,300
Births	6,620	72	1,160	322	832	83	1,924	1,481
Deaths	1,179	22	319	139	181	41	270	259
Net Migration	8,859	-50	-2,241	-483	1,249	358	1,846	-322
Mid-1955	199,300	2,700	51,800	13,900	25,300	3,200	46,600	47,200
Births	6,983	68	1,368	325	958	93	1,896	1,525
Deaths	1,200	23	300	117	191	31	285	319
Net Migration	4,717	55	-368	-508	-167	-62	1,589	1,494
Mid-1956	209,800	2,800	52,500	13,600	25,900	3,200	49,800	49,900
Births	7,360	61	1,678	373	936	79	1,859	1,542
Deaths	1,310	14	289	141	208	34	304	265
Net Migration	8,450	-247	1,711	768	-128	-45	945	-1,077
Mid-1957	224,300	2,600	55,600	14,600	26,500	3,200	52,300	50,100
Births	7,238	68	1,825	361	1,025	79	1,864	1,391
Deaths	1,416	30	332	141	208	30	291	310
Net Migration	8,378	262	1,007	-120	83	-249	127	-381
Mid-1958	238,500	2,900	58,100	14,700	27,400	3,000	54,000	50,800
Summary 1950-1958								
Mid-1950	147,700	3,500	40,800	16,700	23,300	3,460	39,350	41,100
Births	52,588	561	12,113	3,082	6,824	683	13,295	12,219
Deaths	9,656	179	2,337	1,118	1,419	248	2,297	2,294
Net Migration	47,868	-982	7,524	-3,964	-1,305	-895	3,652	-225
Mid-1958	238,500	2,900	58,100	14,700	27,400	3,000	54,000	50,800
Net Change 1950-1958								
Numbers	90,800	-600	17,300	-2,000	4,100	-460	14,650	9,700
Per Cent	+62	-17	+42	-12	+18	-13	+37	+24

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County Populations

(Continued)

	Grant	Guadalupe	Harding	Hidalgo	Lea	Lincoln	Los Alamos	Luna
1950 Census (April)	21,649	6,772	3,013	5,095	30,717	7,409	10,476	8,753
Mid-1950	21,800	6,800	3,000	5,200	31,000	7,400	10,620	8,800
Births	661	227	77	145	926	210	477	234
Deaths	180	63	23	28	155	46	27	56
Net Migration	519	36	-54	-17	629	-264	930	-278
Mid-1951	22,800	7,000	3,000	5,300	32,400	7,300	12,000	8,700
Births	760	178	64	143	1,121	160	516	249
Deaths	201	58	27	47	164	59	26	71
Net Migration	1,241	-420	-37	904	2,343	99	310	1,022
Mid-1952	24,600	6,700	3,000	6,300	35,700	7,500	12,800	9,900
Births	711	233	67	147	1,396	183	502	277
Deaths	202	54	18	53	192	47	33	85
Net Migration	-2,009	-479	-449	106	6,796	164	-569	808
Mid-1953	23,100	6,400	2,600	6,500	43,700	7,800	12,700	10,900
Births	675	170	48	153	1,396	168	405	268
Deaths	156	54	27	42	213	63	36	81
Net Migration	-2,519	-516	79	-311	917	395	-369	113
Mid-1954	21,100	6,000	2,700	6,300	45,800	8,300	12,700	11,200
Births	510	210	77	177	1,619	156	434	289
Deaths	180	55	28	31	206	42	27	80
Net Migration	-130	45	-49	-246	1,287	-314	-207	-9
Mid-1955	21,300	6,200	2,700	6,200	48,500	8,100	12,900	11,400
Births	631	182	59	143	1,642	185	402	298
Deaths	184	58	14	39	251	62	32	91
Net Migration	-547	-224	-545	-104	3,009	277	-370	293
Mid-1956	21,200	6,100	2,200	6,200	52,900	8,500	12,900	11,900
Births	596	213	42	151	1,729	185	385	275
Deaths	178	64	22	32	263	66	26	71
Net Migration	-1,018	-49	-20	-319	934	-19	-59	-1,304
Mid-1957	20,600	6,200	2,200	6,000	55,300	8,600	13,200	10,800
Births	610	209	44	148	1,606	182	378	289
Deaths	176	46	20	38	239	40	25	97
Net Migration	-934	-363	-24	-110	-467	-442	-353	1,008
Mid-1958	20,100	6,000	2,200	6,000	56,200	8,300	13,200	12,000
Summary 1950-1958								
Mid-1950	21,800	6,800	3,000	5,200	31,000	7,400	10,620	8,800
Births	5,154	1,622	478	1,207	11,435	1,429	3,499	2,179
Deaths	1,457	452	179	310	1,683	425	232	632
Net Migration	-5,397	-1,970	-1,099	-97	15,448	-104	-687	1,653
Mid-1958	20,100	6,000	2,200	6,000	56,200	8,300	13,200	12,000
Net Change 1950-1958								
Numbers	-1,700	-800	-800	800	25,200	900	2,580	3,200
Per Cent	-8	-12	-27	+15	+81	+12	+24	+36

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County Populations

(Continued)

	McKinley	Mora	Otero	Quay	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan
1950 Census (April)	27,451	8,720	14,909	13,971	24,997	16,409	12,438	18,292
Mid-1950	27,600	8,600	15,100	14,000	24,950	16,500	12,300	18,800
Births	958	295	469	380	908	417	421	672
Deaths	339	107	107	109	208	90	136	209
Net Migration	1,181	-1,288	438	-271	-1,050	-227	-1,285	1,537
Mid-1951	29,400	7,500	15,900	14,000	24,600	16,600	11,300	20,800
Births	1,025	262	499	358	842	394	425	795
Deaths	345	66	114	111	214	87	119	224
Net Migration	20	-896	815	-747	-1,028	-807	-406	4,029
Mid-1952	30,100	6,800	17,100	13,500	24,200	16,100	11,200	25,400
Births	1,115	243	566	357	781	372	372	944
Deaths	295	82	112	111	214	96	107	272
Net Migration	580	139	2,546	-446	-767	-276	-1,265	4,028
Mid-1953	31,500	7,100	20,100	13,300	24,000	16,100	10,200	30,100
Births	1,157	165	704	359	934	345	338	976
Deaths	314	65	128	101	185	103	113	245
Net Migration	1,157	-1,000	924	-1,058	-749	-142	-725	269
Mid-1954	33,500	6,200	21,600	12,500	24,000	16,200	9,700	31,100
Births	1,256	291	919	326	797	338	556	950
Deaths	290	71	114	115	180	97	109	179
Net Migration	934	280	4,295	-211	-217	-441	2,453	-671
Mid-1955	35,400	6,700	26,700	12,500	24,400	16,000	12,600	31,200
Births	1,204	207	981	299	840	404	418	1,209
Deaths	247	62	157	110	207	111	118	234
Net Migration	943	-345	6,376	-289	67	207	-900	6,625
Mid-1956	37,300	6,500	33,900	12,400	25,100	16,500	12,000	38,800
Births	1,266	180	1,078	327	899	364	394	1,286
Deaths	226	72	126	100	204	118	107	219
Net Migration	1,260	-308	2,248	-227	-795	54	-887	8,533
Mid-1957	39,600	6,300	37,100	12,400	25,000	16,800	11,400	48,400
Births	1,366	222	1,247	290	885	367	415	1,806
Deaths	310	95	191	131	222	126	132	275
Net Migration	744	73	3,744	141	737	459	117	4,569
Mid-1958	41,400	6,500	41,900	12,700	26,400	17,500	11,800	54,500
Summary 1950-1958								
Mid-1950	27,600	8,600	15,100	14,000	24,950	16,500	12,300	18,800
Births	9,347	1,865	6,463	2,696	6,886	3,001	3,339	8,638
Deaths	2,366	620	1,049	888	1,634	828	941	1,857
Net Migration	6,819	-3,345	21,386	-3,108	-3,802	-1,173	-2,898	28,919
Mid-1958	41,400	6,500	41,900	12,700	26,400	17,500	11,800	54,500
Net Change 1950-1958								
Numbers	13,800	-2,100	26,800	-1,300	1,450	1,000	-500	35,700
Per Cent	+50	-24	+178	-9	+6	+6	-4	+190

County Populations

(Continued)

	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Sierra	Socorro	Taos	Torrance	Union	Valencia	State
1950 Census (April)	26,512	38,153	7,186	9,670	17,146	8,012	7,372	22,481	681,187
Mid-1950	26,400	38,100	7,100	9,600	17,100	7,950	7,350	22,400	684,380
Births	944	1,344	126	289	617	227	224	707	22,856
Deaths	258	281	83	85	172	82	65	189	5,362
Net Migration	-1,186	-1,463	-643	-404	-645	-195	-509	-718	-974
Mid-1951	25,900	37,700	6,500	9,400	16,900	7,900	7,000	22,200	700,900
Births	843	1,239	108	257	510	194	179	696	23,454
Deaths	281	313	78	82	129	58	80	205	5,515
Net Migration	-1,162	-1,626	-230	-375	-2,881	-1,336	-199	709	2,361
Mid-1952	25,300	37,000	6,300	9,200	14,400	6,700	6,900	23,400	721,200
Births	831	1,205	116	245	466	202	189	692	24,672
Deaths	258	313	79	94	131	64	71	182	5,550
Net Migration	-1,473	-792	63	-151	-535	-138	-218	190	13,978
Mid-1953	24,400	37,100	6,400	9,200	14,200	6,700	6,800	24,100	754,300
Births	849	1,233	130	270	362	184	165	613	24,985
Deaths	216	253	96	73	90	56	70	183	5,307
Net Migration	-833	-1,680	166	-697	-472	-328	-595	570	-6,578
Mid-1954	24,200	36,400	6,600	8,700	14,000	6,500	6,300	25,100	767,400
Births	777	1,168	115	258	535	238	188	838	25,516
Deaths	252	280	87	102	113	64	46	197	5,355
Net Migration	-725	912	-228	244	778	-174	-442	1,959	18,339
Mid-1955	24,000	38,200	6,400	9,100	15,200	6,500	6,000	27,700	805,900
Births	776	1,296	126	320	474	194	172	781	26,459
Deaths	229	289	96	81	125	52	80	192	5,587
Net Migration	-747	-107	-330	-39	-449	-342	608	1,911	21,728
Mid-1956	23,800	39,100	6,100	9,300	15,100	6,300	6,700	30,200	848,500
Births	796	1,249	110	275	494	180	214	720	27,296
Deaths	243	296	89	93	153	62	73	182	5,650
Net Migration	-653	447	179	18	-241	-218	-241	762	18,454
Mid-1957	23,700	40,500	6,300	9,500	15,200	6,200	6,600	31,500	888,600
Births	743	1,315	100	349	456	150	157	997	28,182
Deaths	236	300	116	101	156	56	73	222	6,181
Net Migration	-307	-315	-84	752	-400	-294	-484	2,425	19,299
Mid-1958	23,900	41,200	6,200	10,500	15,100	6,000	6,200	34,700	929,900
Summary 1950-1958									
Mid-1950	26,400	38,100	7,100	9,600	17,100	7,950	7,350	22,400	684,380
Births	6,559	10,049	931	2,263	3,914	1,569	1,488	6,044	203,420
Deaths	1,973	2,325	724	711	1,069	494	558	1,552	44,507
Net Migration	-7,086	-4,624	-1,107	-652	-4,845	-3,025	-2,080	7,808	86,607
Mid-1958	23,900	41,200	6,200	10,500	15,100	6,000	6,200	34,700	929,900
Net Change 1950-1958									
Numbers	-2,500	3,100	-900	900	-2,000	-1,950	-1,150	12,300	245,520
Per Cent	-10	+8	-13	+9	-12	-24	-16	+55	+36

Business Activity in New Mexico

	August 1958	Year Earlier August 1957	Per Cent Change August 1958 from July 1958	Per Cent Change August 1958 from August 1957	INDEX August 1958 (Average Month 1947-49 = 100)
Index of Business Activity (1947-49 = 100)	284.8	253.6	+ 3.5	+ 12.3	284.8
*Sales of Retail Stores (1,000s)	$117,558	$105,550	+ 5.9	+ 11.4	239.0
Apparel Stores	3,264	2,999	+ 18.8	+ 8.8	164.8
Automotive Dealers	28,281	26,518	- 5.6	+ 6.6	211.6
Subsistence Stores	27,615	25,497	+ 18.1	+ 8.3	239.5
Furniture and Appliance Stores	4,009	4,020	- 1.8	- 0.3	157.6
Building Materials Dealers	11,057	8,733	- 4.3	+ 26.6	227.0
Other Retail Stores	43,332	37,783	+ 10.3	+ 14.7	296.1
*Sales of Amusement Establishments (1,000s)	$ 1,702	$ 1,304	+ 11.0	+ 30.6	191.1
*Sales of Service Establishments (1,000s)	11,428	10,919	+ 6.9	+ 4.7	295.6
*Sales of Contractors (1,000s)	33,665	26,043	+ 6.4	+ 29.3	492.6
*Sales of Wholesalers (1,000s)	39,523	33,853	- 0.8	+ 16.7	195.7
*Public Utilities' and Carriers' Sales (1,000s)	14,823	13,591	+ 29.8	+ 9.1	316.8
*Life Insurance Sales (1,000s)	20,225	19,267	- 15.1	+ 5.0	576.7
*Bank Debits, 36 banks (1,000s)	$423,537	$382,893	- 6.2	+ 10.6	260.8[a]
Bank Loans and Discounts, 36 banks (1,000s)	41,018	32,907	- 7.0	+ 24.6	239.5[a]
Demand Deposits, 36 banks (1,000s)	325,407	300,078	+ 0.2	+ 8.4	171.7[a]
Time Deposits, 36 banks (1,000s)	110,745	96,257	+ 2.2	+ 15.1	309.2[a]
Business Failure Liabilities (1,000s)[b]	34	267	- 52.8	- 87.3	118.8
Wage Workers in Nonagricultural Establishments	216,400	213,100	- 1.1	+ 1.5	164.3
*in Manufacturing	21,900	21,400	- 2.2	+ 2.3	220.8
in Mining	14,100	18,700	- 6.0	- 24.6	122.4
in Transportation and Utilities	19,800	20,600	0.0	- 3.9	131.9
in Trade	49,600	47,700	+ 0.6	+ 4.0	167.0
in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8,500	7,400	+ 1.2	+ 14.9	289.6
in Services and Miscellaneous	27,900	27,400	- 1.1	+ 1.8	130.0
in Government	54,400	52,200	- 0.9	+ 4.2	190.7
in Contract Construction	20,200	17,700	- 2.9	+ 14.1	159.9
Number of Insured Unemployed	4,375	2,367	- 6.3	+ 84.8	--
Rate of Unemployment (per cent of labor force)	2.47	1.37	- 5.7	+ 80.3	159.1
*Building Permits, total 16 cities (1,000s)	$ 11,603	$ 4,773	+ 16.8	+143.1	460.4[a]
Residential	7,478	3,119	+ 17.5	+139.7	479.7[a]
Nonresidential	3,404	1,139	+ 14.7	+199.0	501.8[a]
Other	721	515	+ 18.8	+ 39.9	254.8[a]
*Petroleum Production (1,000s of bbls)	8,445	7,658	+ 2.5	+ 10.3	222.7
Natural Gas Production (millions of cu ft)	53,802	62,929	- 3.4	- 14.5	334.5
*Electric Power Production (1,000s of kwhs)	286,641	258,331	- 1.6	+ 11.0	324.8
*Index of Total Metallics Production (1947-49 = 100)	54.5	87.6	- 8.0	- 37.8	54.5
Mine Production - Copper (1,000s of lbs)	9,860	11,540	- 7.3	- 14.6	93.3
Mine Production - Lead (1,000s of lbs)	40	450	- 9.1	- 91.1	3.9
Mine Production - Zinc (1,000s of lbs)	na	3,854	na		na
*Mine Production - Potash (1,000s of tons)	724	1,181	+ 4.3	- 38.7	180.9
Index of All Farm Prices (1947-49 = 100)	103.8	94.8	0.0	+ 9.5	103.8[c]
Index of Livestock Prices	111.4	96.3	- 0.6	+ 15.7	111.4
Index of Crop Prices	92.1	98.0	+ 1.3	- 6.0	92.1[c]
Receipts from All Farm Marketings (1,000s)	$ 7,198	$ 5,998	- 6.0	+ 20.0	115.3
Livestock and Products	4,391	3,622	+ 19.4	+ 21.2	104.7
Crops	2,807	2,376	- 18.3	+ 18.1	132.8

	September 1958	Year Earlier September 1957	Per Cent Change September 1958 from Aug. 1958	Per Cent Change September 1958 from Sept. 1957	INDEX September 1958 (Average Month 1947-49 = 100)
Bank Debits 36 banks (1,000s)	$437,656	$379,285	+ 3.3	+ 15.4	269.4[a]
Bank Loans and Discounts, 36 banks (1,000s)	43,778	35,888	+ 6.7	+ 22.0	255.5[a]
Demand Deposits, 36 banks (1,000s)	325,652	300,956	+ 0.1	+ 8.2	171.9[a]
Time Deposits, 36 banks (1,000s)	112,880	96,484	+ 1.9	+ 17.0	315.1[a]
Wages Workers in Nonagricultural Establishments	218,600	212,700	+ 1.0	+ 2.8	166.0
Number of Insured Unemployed	3,578	2,014	- 18.2	+ 77.7	--
Rate of Unemployment (per cent of labor force)	2.03	1.18	- 17.8	+ 72.0	130.4
Building Permits, total 16 cities (1,000s)	$ 8,970	$ 6,540	- 22.7	+ 37.2	355.9[a]
Residential	6,969	4,440	- 6.8	+ 57.0	447.0[a]
Nonresidential	1,424	1,652	- 58.2	- 13.8	209.9[a]
Other	577	448	- 20.0	+ 28.8	203.9[a]
Index of All Farm Prices (1947-49 = 100)	108.6	96.2	+ 4.6	+ 12.9	108.6
Index of Livestock Prices	116.4	98.3	+ 4.5	+ 18.4	116.4
Index of Crop Prices	97.6	98.0	+ 6.0	- 0.4	97.6

*Indexes for these items are used to compute the Index of Business Activity.

[a]Although the number of reporting units changes, the indexes for these items are comparable with indexes for preceding months.

[b]The figures in this series are based on the average of three months' data.

[c]Revised

na - not available

Sources:

Retail Sales data: N. M. Bureau of Revenue

Potash Production: N. M. Bureau of Revenue

Petroleum and Natural Gas Production: N. M. Oil Conservation Commission

Life Insurance Sales (New Ordinary): Life Insurance Agency Management Association

Wage Workers and Unemployment: N. M. Employment Security Commission and U. S. Department of Labor

Electric Power Production: Federal Power Commission

Metallics Production: U. S. Bureau of Mines

Farm Prices and Marketings: U. S. Agricultural Marketing Service

Bank data (all series), Building Permits: Bureau of Business Research

Business Failure Liabilities: Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.

Monthly Summary **(Continued from Page 1)**

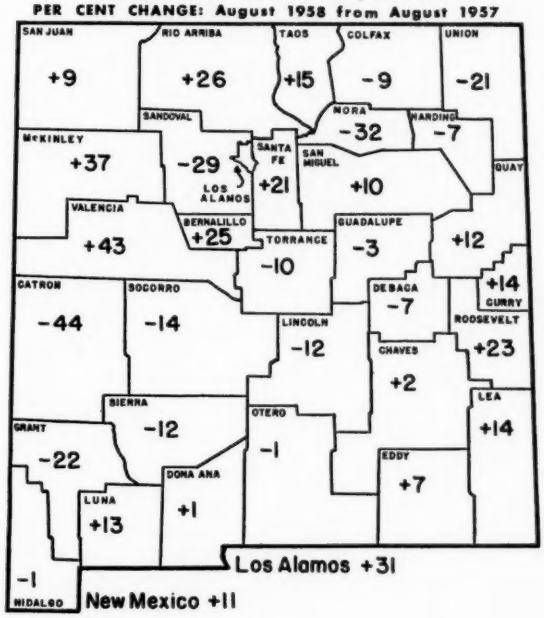
Two retail groups, apparel stores and furniture and appliance dealers, have not fared so well as in 1957; but even their sales have perked up in recent months. Automotive dealers, whose distress nationally has been billed as a national calamity, report sales in New Mexico that are 10 per cent above those of plush 1956.

Most of the State's industries--except metallics and potash--are growing steadily. However, only two are turning in spectacular performances: contract construction, apparently the main extra prod to the State's prosperity, with awards 16 per cent ahead of the first nine months of 1957 and much work remaining on the record volume of contracts let in 1957; and (presumably, since current data are not available) uranium mining and milling.

Banking activity witnessed a slight seasonal decline. Nevertheless, it was far ahead of last year's level, as it has been throughout the year.

RETAIL SALES: A Comparison

PER CENT CHANGE: August 1958 from August 1957



Sales Activity in New Mexico Counties

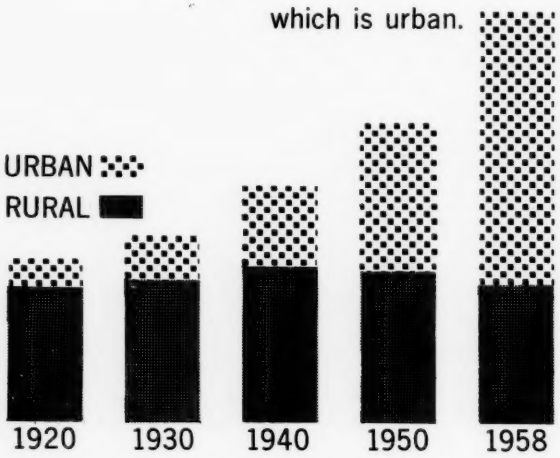
August 1958

(add 1,000s)	Retail Stores							Others		
County	Apparel	Automotive	Subsistence	Furniture & Appliances	Building Material	Other	Total	Amusement Places	Service Firms	Wholesale Sales
Bernalillo	$1,335	$ 8,485	$ 7,797	$1,757	$ 4,817	$ 9,767	$ 33,958	$ 493	$ 4,423	$17,541
Catron	0	64	44	5	3	44	160	1	8	154
Chaves	209	1,655	1,395	182	459	1,553	5,453	135	722	3,563
Colfax	64	442	447	27	119	500	1,599	36	122	370
Curry	143	902	1,046	117	250	921	3,379	53	406	805
De Baca	0	80	83	3	25	153	344	2	15	36
Dona Ana	137	1,374	1,026	149	528	1,006	4,220	86	528	934
Eddy	211	1,338	1,629	189	397	1,930	5,694	62	570	1,266
Grant	30	396	386	53	130	505	1,500	7	152	375
Guadalupe	0	310	332	1	25	146	814	3	9	140
Harding	0	68	6	0	3	74	151	5	6	14
Hidalgo	8	242	146	(a)	73	161	630	5	25	29
Lea	182	1,637	1,490	249	400	6,621	10,579	101	759	1,352
Lincoln	20	146	392	11	118	311	998	97	65	75
Los Alamos	22	132	472	7	6	164	803	19	109	22
Luna	25	458	375	56	77	272	1,263	13	98	407
McKinley	72	1,416	1,283	90	223	1,064	4,148	49	205	1,719
Mora	2	25	22	14	1	70	134	2	3	28
Otero	79	902	771	173	376	692	2,993	63	255	381
Quay	45	665	556	41	119	321	1,747	25	98	673
Rio Arriba	14	503	328	33	65	482	1,425	4	57	168
Roosevelt	65	408	402	120	388	331	1,714	18	129	205
Sandoval	1	100	108	16	2	176	403	0	12	33
San Juan	123	2,296	1,361	232	1,266	3,200	8,478	125	725	1,275
San Miguel	9	405	488	26	151	445	1,524	28	102	641
Santa Fe	222	1,176	1,872	196	414	1,351	5,231	53	787	1,948
Sierra	2	193	164	32	28	138	547	16	50	39
Socorro	10	204	271	31	37	178	731	1	42	190
Taos	24	223	527	60	29	388	1,251	19	60	195
Torrance	1	239	170	8	16	216	650	1	13	50
Union	18	185	120	10	47	174	554	6	41	47
Valencia	106	817	1,012	47	179	1,095	3,256	47	163	273
Unallocated	85	795	1,094	84	286	8,883	11,227	129	670	4,575
Total	$3,264	$28,281	$27,615	$4,009	$11,057	$43,332	$117,558	$1,702	$11,428	$39,523

(a) Less than $1,000
Source: School Tax Division, N. M. Bureau of Revenue

CHART-OF-THE-MONTH

As New Mexico's population has increased, so has the proportion which is urban.



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